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# Congress of the United States

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### SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERALISM AND THE CENSUS

Congressman Michael R. Turner, Chairman



### OVERSIGHT HEARING

### STATEMENT BY MICHAEL R. TURNER, CHAIRMAN

**Hearing topic:** *"Apportionment in the Balance: A Look into the Progress of the 2010 Decennial Census."*

**Wednesday, March 1, 2006**  
**10:00 am**  
**Room 2154 Rayburn House Office Building**

Welcome to the Subcommittee's oversight hearing entitled, *"Apportionment in the Balance: A Look into the Progress of the 2010 Decennial Census."* Today we will consider the status of the Census Bureau's preparations for the 2010 Decennial Census.

This hearing is a follow-up to our April 19, 2005 hearing last year entitled, *"Halfway to the 2010 Census: The Countdown and Components to a Successful Decennial Census."* Since then the Census Bureau has achieved and is nearing completion of several key milestones. The Bureau has successfully carried out the American Community Survey for one full year. Additionally, the MAF/TIGER Enhancement Program is nearing what we all hope will be a successful completion.

As the Bureau continues its preparation for a short-form only census, it is undertaking two major contracts, the Field Data Collection Automation program and the Decennial Response Integration System. These two technology contracts have a combined value of over \$1 billion. These major contracts signal the first real "hi-tech" census, and the Subcommittee will examine how the successful implementation of these contracts is critical to the 2010 Decennial Census.

Furthermore, the Subcommittee will explore several other issues such as the Local Update of Census Addresses or LUCA program and the intergovernmental partnerships required to facilitate the program. There are a number of important issues that can impact the successful implementation of the census including: personnel and infrastructure matters; hiring and training temporary workers; and establishing temporary field offices.

Testing for the 2010 Decennial Census is already underway. The Bureau is testing policy and technology concepts in Travis County, Texas and the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. Canvassing in Texas was to be completed in six weeks; and the Subcommittee understands that this goal was not met. In today's hearing we will examine this issue, as well as the issue of using handheld technology in the testing environment. It is our understanding that the handhelds failed to perform adequately and the activity was concluded without finishing the address file that is needed for the next test phase.

These issues must be resolved before the 2008 Dress Rehearsal. I am eager to hear what the Census Bureau is doing to address the problems of their tests and other issues related to the 2010 Decennial Census.

On our first panel we welcome remarks from the Honorable Charles Louis Kincannon, Director of the Census Bureau. Then we will hear from Ms. Brenda Farrell, Acting Director of Strategic Issues and Mr. David Powner, Director of Information Technology Management Issues, both from the Government Accountability Office regarding their assessment of the Bureau's planning for the decennial census.

On our second panel we will hear from Dr. Ralph Rector from the Heritage Foundation, Dr. Andrew Reamer from the Brookings Institution, and lastly, we will hear from Dr. Margo Anderson, professor of history and urban studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

With that, my colleagues on the Subcommittee and I welcome you and look forward to your testimony.

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